

REMARKS

Claims 31 and 39 have been cancelled.

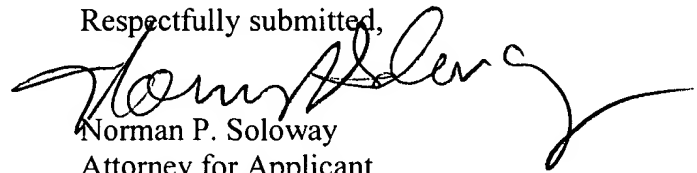
Claims 1, 12, and 34 have been amended to obviate the §112 rejection. Specifically, claims 1 and 12, as amended, requires "preheating the substrate from step a." Claim 34, as amended, requires "said printing employs a fusible ink." Page 5 of the specification provides support for these amendments. With §112 issues removed, claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25-27, 29, 34-36, and 38 now are allowable.

Turning to the art rejections, the rejection of claims 31 and 39 under 35 USC §102(a) as being unpatentable over Nacci et al. (US Patent 4,359,516) is rendered moot because of the cancellation of claims 31 and 39.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

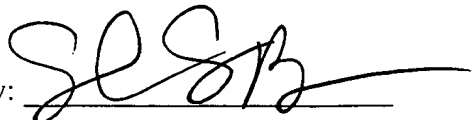
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to "MAIL STOP AMENDMENTS, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" on October 18, 2004 at Tucson, Arizona.

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